

the government be restrained from proceeding against them criminally.

March 22—Judge Carpenter overrules a demurrer by the packers who allege that Judge Humphrey's immunity decision is continuing in its effects and covers all future time so long as the acts covered by the 1906 decision remain the same. Judge Carpenter denies a motion to quash the indictment.

April 13—Packers present a special plea that the anti-trust act itself did not create any new crime, and hence even if the packers disobey the statutes they are committing no criminal act.

May 17—Packers come into court again to have the indictments quashed on the ground that there had been no "unreasonable" restraint of trade as defined by the supreme court in the "Standard Oil" decision.

June 3—Packers file briefs asking for rehearing of their motions to quash the indictment against them.

July 5—Packers plead "not guilty," and trial is fixed for Nov. 20, 1911.

The above is a chronology of the beef trust cases, showing how they have been used as a football in the federal courts for more than nine years.

No other trust so vitally affects the cost of living; no other trust has such tremendous power to oppress every class of citizens from the richest to the poorest. Yet the government's so-called prosecutions have been a continuing grant of immunity and after nine years the first criminal case is yet to be brought to trial.

Great corporations will never take the anti-trust law seriously if the United States government itself does not take the law seriously. They will never respect the criminal prohibition against restraint of trade if the government itself does not respect it. The record in this case is a disgrace to American institutions. It is a scandalous thing that with all its power the government of the United States in nine years has not yet brought a single packer to the bar of justice to prove his guilt or innocence.

These prosecutions have served only to make the law ridiculous and to bring the authority of the federal government into contempt. In no other civilized country would such a record be possible.—New York World.

TOO MUCH INDEPENDENCE

Something of an exposition of the independence which President Taft wished to assure judges when he vetoed the resolution for approval of the Arizona constitution has just been afforded at Seattle, where a federal judge whose decision involving relations of the people and a railway company so offended that he has been burned in effigy.

Of the merits of the controversy between the people and the corporation little appears in the dispatches, but it does appear that the corporation was endeavoring to put in force a new schedule of rates, that its patrons were protesting and that the federal judge granted an injunction restraining the patrons of the company in Ranier valley "from interfering with enforcement of the new fare schedule."

Hanford is the name of the United States district judge who granted the injunction. By doing so he so incensed the people whom his order affected that they assembled in mass meeting and denounced him, and as a result his effigy was burned.

That it was not done exactly by a mob is attested by the personnel of some of the protestants, for among those who spoke in denunciation of his action were the mayor of Tacoma, one state senator and one man

who last year was a candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator.

The great cause of popular complaint is that federal judges enjoy too much of that independence which the president spoke in his veto message. Their independence is so marked as to assure them immunity from popular resentment when their decisions or other judicial acts are manifestly wrong, outrageously wrong. Through that independence they are enabled to decide disputed questions between the corporations and the people in such a way as to conserve the corporation interests and ignore popular rights.

Every decision so rendered becomes a part of the law of the land, as the law is made up from the judicial interpretations of statutes. Through a long line of misinterpretations of good laws partial judges are enabled to build up bad laws to sustain the corporations in imposing upon the people. These decisions may be manifestly and outrageously wrong, but protest is of no avail. The judge is independent of popular sentiment and can snap his fingers at his critics. He is amenable to no one except the corporations which control the appointment and tenure of office of federal judges.

One hates to observe these defects in our judicial system. It is through the courts that we all must hope to maintain our liberties and preserve our rights as individuals. But it will never be a safe, or even a reasonable, reliance until we shall have deprived our judges of some of that independence that enables them to outrage the popular sense of justice and equity and snap their fingers at a critical public.

Certainly nothing is to be gained toward the exaltation of the dignity of the courts by a condition which results in the burning of an offending judge in effigy. It would be immeasurably better for the bench as a safe reliance of the people if such judge were subject to recall by popular verdict.—Lincoln (Neb.) Star.

THE IGNORED CONSUMER

Viewing the special session of congress broadly, just two things stand forth. First, a wise, good principle—that of reciprocity—has been enacted into law, but so applied as only to profit more unduly special privilege, already too highly protected for the safety of the true protective system, while working an injustice to one-third of the nation's population.

Second, that absolutely no relief has been given to the American consumer, except the American newspaper, despite the fact that both the house and senate sent to President Taft, for his approval, measures which, but for his veto, would have brought immediate relief to the cost of living, without destroying legitimate, honest protection of a single American industry.—Philadelphia North American (rep.)

VARDAMAN'S VICTORY

All true democrats will rejoice in the nomination of ex-Governor Vardaman of Mississippi, for United States senator. His nomination is equivalent to an election and the democratic party will have a representative in Vardaman that will be an honor to the party and an honor to the country. Vardaman's opponents were both recognized as "conservative" democrats. "Conservative" democracy means "moss-back" or "stand-pat" democracy and a further definition of it is "corporation" democracy. The south has had too many of that kind of democrats in congress and it still has in Senator Bailey of Texas, a conservative that ought to be ousted at the first opportunity.

In the condition in which our

country is now, when trusts, corporations, bribers and bribe-takers rule our legislative bodies, when our courts are packed with stand-pat judges, determined to thwart the will of the people by legal decisions that are usurpations of the rights of the law-making bodies which are elected by the people, there should be no

such thing as a "conservative" democrat and the election of Vardaman will be hailed with delight by the great majority of democrats everywhere. It is not only a victory for Vardaman, but is a victory for the honest, progressive citizens of the country, irrespective of party.—Creston (Iowa) American.

Advertisement for Hoosier Stoves. Title: 'Don't Pay Two Prices for Ranges & Heaters Save \$18 to \$22 on a Range or Base Burner.' Includes a detailed diagram of a stove with various parts labeled (e.g., 'Drop tea shelves', 'Baked reservoir lid', 'Cast plate entry'). A testimonial from Bluefield, Col., praises the stove's efficiency. A coupon is provided for requesting a free catalog. Address: Hoosier Stove Factory, 101 State St., Marion, Ind.

Advertisement for Ropp's New Calculator and Short-Cut Arithmetic. Title: 'Ropp's New Calculator and Short-Cut Arithmetic'. Includes an image of the calculator. Text: 'This is unquestionably the most complete and convenient work on figures, for practical use, ever published. It contains nearly all the short cuts known. Hundreds of simple rules and original methods for "Easy and Rapid Calculation," and millions of accurate answers to business examples and practical problems.' A 'BIG BARGAIN OFFER' is advertised: 'Send 50 cents, cash, money order or check, for a two-year subscription to The American Homestead, and you will receive a copy of Ropp's New Commercial Calculator, FREE, POSTAGE PREPAID, if you use the coupon.' A coupon is provided for requesting the calculator. Address: The American Homestead, Lincoln, Neb.